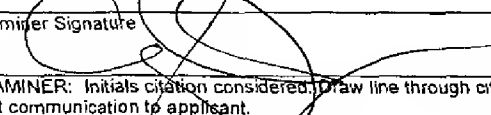


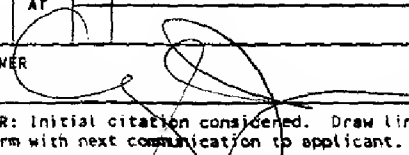
Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Attorney's Docket No. 05918-130002	Application No. 09/996,618
Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicant William H. Shepard et al.	
		Filing Date November 27, 2001	Group Art Unit 1771

(37 CFR §1.98(b))

U.S. Patent Documents							
Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Patent Number	Issue Date	Patentee	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
R	AA	3,756,907	09/1973	Heling			
	AB	3,720,578	03/1973	Heling et al.			
	AC	3,756,907	09/1973	Heling			
	AD	4,116,892	09/1978	Schwarz			
	AE	4,154,885	05/1979	Tecl et al.			
	AF	4,223,059	09/1980	Schwarz			
	AG	4,363,845	12/1982	Hartmann			
	AH	4,418,104	11/1983	Kiyomura et al.			
	AI	4,451,314	05/1984	Knoke et al.			
	AJ	4,451,315	05/1984	Miyazaki			
	AK	4,490,425	12/1984	Knoke et al.			
	AL	4,600,605	07/1986	Nakai et al.			
	AM	4,806,300	02/1989	Walton et al.			
	AN	5,565,255	10/1996	Young et al.			
	AO	5,586,371	12/1996	Thomas			
	AP	5,618,583	04/1997	Young et al.			
	AQ	5,664,302	09/1997	Thomas			
	AR	5,685,756	11/1997	Noda			
	AS	5,695,377	12/1997	Triebes et al.			
	AT	5,699,593	12/1997	Jackson			
AU	5,736,214	04/1998	Billarant				
AV	5,747,584	05/1998	Noda				
AW	5,773,120	06/1998	Deka et al.				
AX	5,843,057	12/1998	McCormack				
AY	5,858,515	01/1999	Stokes et al.				

Examiner Signature 	Date Considered 10-20-03
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SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 05918/130002		SERIAL NO. 09/996,618	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT William H. Shepard et al.			
(37 CFR 1.98(b))				FILING DATE November 27, 2001		GROUP 1771	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER (INITIAL)		PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
4	AA	2 9 1 3 8 0 3	11/24/59	Dodds			
4	AB	3 1 5 2 3 8 1	10/13/64	Priester, Jr., et al.			
	AC	3 7 0 5 0 6 5	12/5/72	Stumpf			
	AD	3 7 0 8 3 6 1	1/2/73	Stumpf			
	AE	3 8 2 2 1 6 2	7/2/74	Stumpf			
	AF	4 2 9 5 2 5 1	10/20/81	Tatham et al.			
	AG	4 3 7 7 8 8 9	3/29/83	Tatham et al.			
	AH	4 4 4 6 1 8 9	5/1/84	Romanek			
	AI	4 5 3 6 4 3 9	8/20/85	Forsten			
	AJ	4 7 5 0 4 4 3	6/14/88	Blaustein et al.			
4	AK	4 9 7 3 3 2 6	11/27/90	Wood et al.			
4	AL	4 9 9 2 1 2 4	2/12/91	Kurihara et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
4	AM	0 482 749 A1	29/04/92	EPO			
4	AN	0 604 731 A1	06/07/94	EPO			
	AO	WO 95/17111	29/06/95	PCT			
	AP	GB 2 285 093 A	28/06/95	Great Britain			
4	AQ	GB 2 290 052	13/12/95	Great Britain			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)							
4	AR	Assoc. of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry, "The Needlepunch Primer", INDA pp. 1-29 (1995)					
4	AS	Foster, "Needlepunching A Unique Sector," FW: Nonwovens Manufacturing, pp. 2-6 (1996)					
	AT						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED 10-20-03			
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				FEB 19 2002			
(37 CFR 1.98(b))				FILING DATE November 27, 2001		GROUP 1771	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
1/	AA 3 3 4 1 3 8 6	09/12/67	White et al.				
1/	AB 3 3 4 7 7 3 5	10/17/67	Dildilian				
	AC 3 6 7 4 6 1 8	07/04/72	Spann				
	AD 3 6 9 4 8 6 7	10/03/72	Stumpf				
	AE 4 1 5 4 8 8 9	05/15/79	Platt				
	AF 4 3 7 9 1 8 9	04/05/83	Platt				
	AG 4 3 8 9 4 4 2	06/21/83	Pickens, Jr. et al.				
	AH 4 3 9 1 8 6 6	07/05/83	Pickens, Jr. et al.				
	AI 5 1 4 4 7 3 0	09/08/92	Dilo				
✓	AJ 5 6 1 4 2 3 2	03/25/97	Torigoe et al.				
✓	AK 5 6 1 6 3 9 4	04/01/97	Gorman et al.				
8	AL 5 6 2 2 5 7 8	04/22/97	Thomas				
FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION							
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
6	AN EP 0 341 993	11/15/89	Europe				
	AO						
	AP						
	AQ						
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)							
	AR						
	AS						
	AT						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT William H. Shepard et al.			
(37 CFR 1.98(b))				FILING DATE November 27, 2001		GROUP 1771	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER (INITIAL)		PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE)
	AA	4 3 2 0 1 6 7	03/16/82	Wishman	428	89	
	AB	4 3 7 9 1 8 9	04/05/83	Platt	428	89	
	AC	4 3 8 9 4 4 2	06/21/83	Pickens, Jr. et al.	428	92	
	AD	4 6 2 4 1 1 6	11/25/86	Rogers	66	193	04/08/85
	AE	4 7 6 1 3 1 8	08/02/88	Ott et al.	428	85	08/29/86
	AF	4 9 3 1 3 4 3	06/05/90	Becker et al.	428	95	01/22/88
	AG	4 9 7 3 3 2 6	11/27/90	Wood et al.	604	391	11/30/87
	AH	5 0 3 2 1 2 2	07/16/91	Noel et al.	604	391	05/17/89
	AI	5 1 4 4 7 3 0	09/08/92	Dilo	28	109	08/02/90
	AJ	5 6 0 5 7 2 9	02/25/97	Mody et al.	428	37	01/19/95
	AK						
	AL						
FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AM	07300752 A	94.11.14	Japan			Yes
	AN	0 780 505 A2	97.06.25	EPO			Yes
	AO	WO 92/01401	92.02.06	WIPO			
	AP						
	AQ						
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)							
	AR						
	AS						
	AT						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
				10-20-03			
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SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1449
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05918/130002SERIAL NO.
09/996,618INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
4	BA	5 0 6 6 2 8 9	11/19/91	Poliski			
2	BB	5 1 5 1 3 2 0	9/29/92	Homonoff et al.			
	BC	5 2 1 6 7 9 0	6/8/93	Eschenbach			
	BD	5 2 5 6 2 3 1	10/26/93	Gorman et al.			
	BE	5 3 2 6 6 1 2	7/5/94	Goulait			
	BF	5 4 0 3 3 0 2	4/4/95	Roessler et al.			
	BG	5 4 2 3 7 8 9	6/13/95	Kuen			
	BH	5 4 7 6 7 0 2	12/19/95	Datta et al.			
	BI	5 5 3 1 7 3 2	7/2/96	Wood			
	BJ	5 5 4 2 9 4 2	8/6/96	Kline et al.			
	BK	5 5 4 7 5 3 1	8/20/96	Allen et al.			
	BL	5 5 5 4 2 3 9	9/10/96	Datta et al.			
	BM	5 5 6 9 2 3 3	10/29/96	Goulait			
	BN	5 5 9 5 5 6 7	1/21/97	King et al.			
	BO	5 6 1 1 7 9 1	3/18/97	Gorman et al.			
	BP	5 6 1 4 2 8 1	3/25/97	Jackson et al.			
	BQ	5 6 1 5 4 6 0	4/1/97	Weirich et al.			

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FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
BR	JP 71-71011	11/7/95	Japan			
BS						

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)

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Substitute Disclosure Form (PTO-1449)

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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.
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APPLICANT
William H. Shepard et al.

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FILING DATE
November 27, 2001GROUP
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
✓	AA	3 7 0 8 8 3 3	01/09/73	Ribich et al.	24	204	03/15/71
✓	AB	4 2 5 8 0 9 7	03/24/81	Benedyk	428	224	04/26/79
✓	AC	4 4 2 4 2 5 0	01/03/84	Adams et al.	428	198	04/21/82
✓	AD	4 6 0 0 6 1 8	07/15/86	Raychok, Jr. et al.	428	92	03/16/84
✓	AE	4 6 4 5 6 9 9	02/24/87	Neveu	428	95	06/24/85
✓	AF	4 6 5 4 2 4 6	03/31/87	Provost et al.	428	88	09/05/85
✓	AG	4 7 3 9 6 3 5	04/26/88	Conley et al.	66	190	07/08/87
✓	AH	4 9 8 1 7 4 9	01/01/91	Kubo et al.	428	129	11/16/89
✓	AI	5 2 1 4 9 4 2	06/01/93	Peake, III et al.	66	194	06/06/91
✓	AJ	5 2 6 7 4 5 3	12/07/93	Peake, III et al.	66	194	03/22/93
✓	AK	5 3 0 4 1 6 2	04/19/94	Kuen	604	391	12/30/92

FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
✓	AL	EP 0 605 013 A1	06.07.94	European				
✓	AM	EP 0 765 616 A1	02.04.97	European				
✓	AN	JP 8-27657	01/30/96	Japan			X	
✓	AO	JP 10-151005	06/09/98	Japan			X	
✓	AP	JP 2-41156	02/09/90	Japan				X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)

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	AS	

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SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1449
(MODIFIED)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.
05918/130002SERIAL NO.
09/996,618INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)

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APPLICANT
William H. Shepard et al.

(37 CFR 1.98(b))

FILING DATE
November 27, 2001GROUP
1771

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
SC	BA	5 3 8 0 3 1 3	01/10/95	Goulait et al.	604	391	01/16/92
	BB	5 3 8 2 4 6 1	01/17/95	Wu	428	86	03/12/93
	BC	5 3 8 3 8 7 2	01/24/95	Roessler et al.	604	391	08/06/93
	BD	5 3 8 6 5 9 5	02/07/95	Kuen et al.	2	400	07/15/94
	BE	5 3 9 1 4 2 4	02/21/95	Kolzer	428	220	02/03/92
	BF	5 4 0 7 4 3 9	04/18/95	Goulait	604	391	06/01/94
	BG	5 4 0 7 7 2 2	04/18/95	Peake, III et al.	428	88	10/18/93
	BH	5 4 4 7 5 9 0	09/05/95	Gilpatrick	156	178	05/24/93
	BI	5 4 4 9 5 3 0	09/12/95	Peake, III et al.	427	244	04/15/94
	BJ	5 4 7 0 4 1 7	11/28/95	Goulait	156	201	10/11/94
8	BK	5 4 7 6 7 0 2	12/19/95	Datta et al.	428	99	12/28/94

FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
8	BL	JP 2-191735	07/27/90	Japan			X	
	BM	JP 6-123061	05/08/94	Japan			X	
	BN	JP 9-195153	07/29/97	Japan			X	
	BO	JP 9-195154	07/29/97	Japan			X	
8	BP	JP 9-195155	07/29/97	Japan			X	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)

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Substitute Disclosure Form (PTO-1449)

SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 05918/130002	SERIAL NO. 09/996,618
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)			APPLICANT William H. Shepard et al.	
(37 CFR 1.98(b))			FILING DATE November 27, 2001	GROUP 1771

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT
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APPLICANT
William H. Shepard et al.

FILING DATE
November 27, 2001

GROUP
1771

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>	CA	5 5 0 0 2 6 8	03/19/96	Billarant	428	100	01/31/95
	CB	5 5 1 8 7 9 5	05/21/96	Kennedy et al.	428	100	10/06/94
	CC	5 6 1 6 1 5 5	04/01/97	Kronzer	51	295	05/26/95
	CD	5 6 5 4 0 7 0	08/05/97	Billarant	428	100	12/04/95
	CE	5 6 6 9 9 0 0	09/23/97	Bullwinkel et al.	604	391	11/03/94
	CF	5 6 6 9 9 0 1	09/23/97	LaFortune et al.	604	391	04/18/96
<i>[Handwritten initials]</i>	CG	5 7 0 7 7 0 7	01/13/98	Burnes et al.	428	95	08/01/95
	CH	5 7 2 2 9 6 8	03/03/98	Datta et al.	604	391	01/29/97
	CI						
	CJ						

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FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
④	CK	JP 9-309168	12/02/97	Japan			X	
	CL	JP 4-56008	05/13/92	Japan			X	
	CM	JP 10-146207	06/02/98	Japan			X	
	CN	JP 10-165207	06/23/98	Japan			X	
⑦	CO	JP 6-33359	02/08/94	Japan			X	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)

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Substitute Disclosure Form (PTO-1449)

SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 05918/130002		SERIAL NO. 09/996,618	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT William H. Shepard et al.		FILING DATE November 27, 2001	
(37 CFR 1.98(b))				GROUP 1771			
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE FEB 1 9 2002							
PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DA	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	DA						
	DB						
	DC						
	DD						
	DE						
	DF						
	DG						
	DH						
	DI						
	DJ						
	DK						

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FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	DL	WO 96/03101	08.02.96	PCT				
	DM	WO 96/14459	17.05.96	PCT				
	DN	WO 98/33410	06.08.98	PCT				
	DO	JP 6-141913	24.05.94	Japan				X
	DP	JP 7-231842	09.05.95	Japan				X

8
 9

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)							
EXAMINER	DO	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	DO						
	DR						
	DS						

DATE CONSIDERED
 10.20.03

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Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Attorney's Docket No. 05918/130002	Application No. 09/996.618
Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicant William H. Shepard et al.	
		Filing Date November 27, 2001	Group Art Unit 1771

(37 CFR §1.98(b))

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U.S. Patent Documents

Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Patent Number	Issue Date	Patentee	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

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Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications

Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document Number	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
S	AL	EP 0 937 420 A2	25.08.99	Europe				
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							

Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication)

Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document
	AQ	
	AR	
	AS	
	AT	

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR 1.98(b))				FEB 19 2002 U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS		APPLICANT William H. Shepard et al.	
				FILING DATE November 27, 2001		GROUP 1771	

EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
CA	5 6 2 0 7 7 9	4/15/97	Levy et al.				
CB	5 6 2 4 4 2 7	4/29/97	Bergman et al.				
CC	5 6 4 7 8 6 4	7/15/97	Allen et al.				
CD							
CE							
CF							
CG							
CH							
CI							
CJ							
CK							

FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
CL								
CM								
CN								
CO								
CP								

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)		
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CS		

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Substitute Disclosure Form (PTO-1449)

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(37 CFR 1.98(b))				GROUP 1771										
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS														
EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER							ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
66	AA	4	3	7	9	1	8	9	04/1983	Platt				
	AB													
	AC													
	AD													
	AE													
	AF													
	AG													
	AH													
	AI													
	AJ													
	AK													
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		DOCUMENT NUMBER							PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	AL													
	AM													
	AN													
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)														
	AQ	PCT/US98/18401 International Search Report Mailed 29 January 1999 (5 pp)												
	AR													
	AS													
EXAMINER										DATE CONSIDERED				
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